

MPSC CANDIDATE SURVEY 2024. RESPONSES TO QUESTION 6

How can council help to increase community awareness about the cultural heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on the Peninsula?

Traffic Light Coding: Green: A clear priority/defined strategy; Yellow: Supportive; Red: Limited strategy/lacks clear direction

	NAME	WARD	TRAFFIC	RESPONSE
	Lavinia Jenkin	Beek Beek		They need to remain in attendance in all local cultural events and continue to educate themselves in matters of cultural relevance.
	Kate Roper	Beek Beek		Council has elevated recognition of Indigenous heritage with place naming and the RAP which was recently completed. Council and other authorities work together to highlight inequality and we work towards an inclusive community.
	Peter Clarke	Benbenjie		Again keen to discuss this with you organisation
	Dinka Jacovac	Benbenjie		Consult with Willum Warrain and other local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island groups for their ideas. Offer to fund an annual cultural awareness Festival?
	Max Patton	Benbenjie		Now more than ever - there needs to be higher levels of engagement with the indigenous community and learning in all parts of the community. More events, school collaboration, exhibitions and public art would be some ways of increasing the visibility and bring about more understanding from the community. However, we must first engage the Bunurong Land Council so they can determine how they would like to raise community awareness.
	Despi O'Connor	Briars		This is definitely done through the councils Reconciliation Action Plan which has just been passed through council. I will lead the roll out of this work ensuring that education is at the forefront of this work. It is imperative that we share First Nations history so that everyone living, working and holidaying on the peninsula know and understand the impacts of settlement but also the culture of this extraordinary place we all call home.
	Patrick Binyon	Brokil		Currently the Council is updating the 2020-2022 Reconciliation Action Plan. Increasing funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander festivals is an action that I would support. Updating signs and information boards is cost effective and promotes the use of local indigenous language across the community. This year we have indigenous names for the electoral wards, and these can be included on the town signs along the Peninsula. I would support initiatives that improve access to Willum Warrain for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living on the southern region of the Peninsula, such as free transport or shuttle buses. The median age of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders on the Mornington Peninsula is 23. This age bracket should be supported with increased inter-

				connection opportunities, leadership programs and access to employment services and pathways. I would support increased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders representation on Council.
	Elizabeth Woolcock	Brokil		Raising awareness of First Nations peoples through education, understanding and respect of country, culture and connections to land.
	David Gill	Coolart		I have helped in writing Council RAP's that provide actions to increase recognition of cultural heritage.
	Stephen Batty	Kackeraboite		There are a number of communities that require recognition and council responsibilities id to ensure that all interested bodies receive adequate community assistance and presence.
	Daniel McCaffrey	Kackeraboite		This is a function of public education and must start in our schools, then supported by community activities, the results of the Voice campaign shows we have work to do in this space
	Kathryn Smith	Moorooduc		We have one of the largest populations of first nations in the state right here on the peninsula. We have a fantastic opportunity to support first nations groups and the land council to bring the community together to learn about our heritage. I will work with these groups to offer supports where needed.
	Josie Jones	Nepean		Council can increase community awareness by supporting Aboriginal-led initiatives, integrating cultural education into local schools and events, promoting public art and cultural landmarks, and collaborating with local Indigenous groups to celebrate heritage through workshops, festivals, and storytelling. This includes acknowledging significant sites and ensuring Aboriginal voices guide cultural preservation efforts.
	Eddie Matt	Nepean		Consultation with our local Aboriginal leaders and associations, such as Willum Warrain, and ensuring any discourse is guided by Aboriginal community members to ensure an accurate representation is achieved. Continued engagement with and support of the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Calendar, and consistent funding to increase Aboriginal community awareness initiatives.
	Monique Toms	Nepean		Invite local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island groups such as Willum Warrain to set up an independent Advisory Committee to tell Council what they want.
	Barry Besanko	Tanti		I have always considered education of all things historical would be a great way to bridge the gap and way we all think about native heritage. Via good educational programs around history of our First Nations communities.
	Nick Fallaw	Tanti		I will support greater integration if indigenous teaching on the peninsula especially as it relates to youth in the education sphere.

	Paul Pingiaro	Tanti		Respect for the cultural heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is an important part of our shared history on the Mornington Peninsula. While opinions on specific policies may vary, I believe we can take a balanced approach that honors and acknowledges this rich heritage without imposing views on others. One way the Council can help is by creating opportunities for learning and voluntary participation, such as offering optional workshops, community events, and information sessions. This would provide residents who are interested with the chance to engage and deepen their understanding of local Indigenous culture at their own pace. I, for one, would love to know more about the local edible and herbal plants! We can also consider incorporating information about Aboriginal heritage into public spaces, (As i do within my business) allowing people to naturally encounter and appreciate it in everyday life. The goal is to promote awareness and respect in a way that is inclusive and unforced, ensuring that everyone feels comfortable while still recognising the importance of the Peninsula's Indigenous history.
	Andrew De Bartolo	Tootgarook		Listening to elders and allowing them to teach tradition to residents on the peninsula. Expose locals to language and culture. More truth telling in council spaces and forums.
	Antonella Celi	Tootgarook		Council has recently adopted the Reconciliation Action Plan that takes the Shire to the next step to "Innovate" reconciliation measures with the traditional land owners. https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/About-Us/Strategies-Plans-Policies/Strategy-Plan-Listing/Reconciliation-Action-Plan
	Simon Meyer	Warringine		Have signs around the place welcoming people to country and educated our children in school.
	Hilda Rachid	Warringine		It's important for our young to learn about our aboriginal culture, it would be great if they teach it at school. I personally would like to see our local council proposing that to the local and federal government.
	Nic Robertson	Warringine		From the Victorian Socialists policy page End the privileging of business interests over Indigenous land rights by pursuing Treaties with First Nations peoples that include the right to veto mining and other environmentally and culturally destructive activities. In so doing, achieving justice, sovereignty and self-determination. Establish a reparations tax on commercial properties as a contribution to funding land theft reparations for First Nations people. Expand the Victorian Stolen Generations Reparations Package to include people removed from their families after 1976 and compensate families of deceased people who would have been eligible for compensation under the scheme. Acknowledge the Indigenous Stolen Wages Preliminary Investigation and establish a scheme to make payments to workers and the families of deceased workers who had wages stolen or withheld. Further develop the curriculum so that Victorian students are taught about the systemic injustices perpetrated against First Nations people. Fund schools to teach Aboriginal languages. Provide targeted spending to rapidly equalise the health, education and economic outcomes of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. Increase access to legal, health and social support services. Protect cultural rights and provide greater support to retain and restore culture and languages lost due to colonisation and genocide, including by supporting First Nations people to live or spend time on

				country. Recognise January 26 as Invasion Day. Implement all recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. Implement all recommendations of the Bringing them Home Report.
	Michael Stephens	Warringine		I support the MP council existing Cultural heritage policy. If elected I was vote on measures to maintain and improve our awareness.